

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Hilda Weist was born on October 22, 1913, to Eva and Henry Weist at Zeland, North Dakota, and she spent her childhood years in Zeland and Pollock, South Dakota; and,

*Whereas*, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

*Whereas*, Hilda went to work for Gust Merkel helping to care for his six young children, Albert, Bernie, Leo, Ervin, Leola and Louise, after losing his wife giving birth, and on September 13, 1934, Hilda and Gust were married at the home of the pastor of First Reform Church in Selby, South Dakota; and,

*Whereas*, Hilda and Gust gave life and love to seven more children, Milton, Alma, Mary, Edward, Lorraine, Eugene, and James, and from the two blended families she has 59 grandchildren, 105 great-grandchildren and numerous great, great-grandchildren; and,

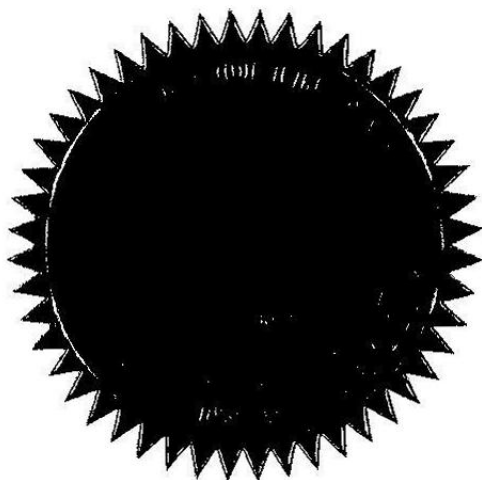
*Whereas*, Hilda loved living in the country where she raised their 13 children and did many chores on the farm, and also made many quilts over the years for her church, various organizations and for each of her grandchildren; and,

*Whereas*, Hilda lives at Rapid City, South Dakota, and will observe her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as her friends and relatives gather on August 31, 2003, to honor her and celebrate her life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a woman who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

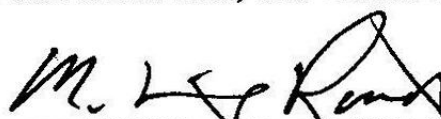
*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 22, 2003, as

### *HILDA MERKEL DAY*

in South Dakota, and I join all her many friends and relatives in wishing her a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-ninth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State